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_DEVELOPMENTS, AN F-105 REPORTEDLY CRASHED ON 5 DECEMBER NEAR ROUTE 6 AT UN 9234 _(20-12N 103-58E). THE FATE OF THE PILOT IS UNKNOWN. SOUTH LAGS MILITARY REGION

PATHET LAO (PL) COMPANY ATTACKED AN RLA BATTALION AT HOME SA. FAR TO THE HORTH, IN PHONE SALY PROVINCE, A U.S. HELT- COPTER WAS SHOT DOWN IN LATE HOVEMBER KILLING THE PILOT, M. BURKE; ACCORDING TO AN 8 DECEMBER DISSIDENT HEUTPALIST (I.E., GEN KHAMMOUAHE) MESSAGE. THE FATE OF THE TWO OTHER CREW MEMBERS IS AS YET UNDISCLOSED. MILITARY REGION 2 COMMUNIST ACTIVITY SOUTHWEST OF SAM HEUA CONTINUES TO BE HEAVY. ON 6 DECEMBER, PHA LOWAM (20-62N 163-58E, UN 9216) FELL TO TWO ENEMY BATTALIONS AND A THIRD BATTALION ATTACKED BAH CHONG (20-62N

103-55E, UN 8715). TWO DAYS LATER AN EHEMY BATTALTOH CAPTURED RLA POSITIONS AT BAN TIO BOUANG (20-04H 103-54E, UN 8519) AND NA LENG (20-05H 103-55E, UH 8420).

TO THE HORTH, IT HAS REPORTED ON & DECEMBER THAT AM ESTIMATED THO PAVE BATTALIONS HAD MOVED WEST FROM SAM HEUA TO THE AREA OF UN 6868 (20-31H 103-44E). THE ENEMY PROPAGAIDIZED THAT THEY INTEND TO ATTACK RLA GUERRILLA FORCES IN THE AREA EITHER DURING DECEMBER OR IN JANUARY 1968. IN OTHER

3 REPORTS OF ENEMY INTENTIONS TO ATTACK RLA POSITIONS AND A CONTINUING HIGH VOLUME OF ENEMY TRUCK TRAFFIC IN THE TCHEPONE AREA HIGHLIGHTED HR 3 ACTIVITY THIS PAST NEEK. OH 11 DECEMBER TACTICAL COMMAND SOUTH LAOS REPORTED THAT THE EHEMY HAS INCREASED "REQUISITION ACTIVITY" IN THE MAHAXAY AND MHOWWARATH AREAS WHICH REPORTEDLY "INDICATES THE PROBABILITY OF SYNCHROHIZED ATTACKS ON THE 35TH, 36TH, 37TH VOLUNTEER BATTALIONS AND THE 18TH MOBILE GROUP (GH)." ANOTHER REPORT DISCLOSED THAT ENEMY TROOPS INTENDED TO LAUNCH ATTACKS ON RLA POSITIONS IN THE SE BANG FAI (RIVER) AND SALA NA DENG AREAS IN CENTRAL MR 3. REPORTED COMMUNIST TRUCK TRAFFIC INCLUDED THE MOVEMENT ON 5 DECEMBER OF 24 TRUCKS FROM TCHEPONE ALONG ROUTE 9 TO MUONG PHINE (16-30N 106-02E, XD 1029) WHILE 12 TRUCKS RE- TURNED TO TCHEPONE FROM MUONG-MITNE AND ON 8 DECEMBER, 24 HORE TRUCKS REPORTEDLY ALSO TRAVELED ALONG ROUTE 9 TO TCHEPONE FROM BAN DONG (16-37H 106-25E, XD 5238); LOCATED APPROXIMATELY 10 KM MEST OF THE LAGTIAN-SOUTH VIETNAMESE BORDER. IN BOTH INSTANCES THE CARGO WAS UNDISCLOSED. MILITARY REGION 4 HEADQUARTERS MR 4 HAS DESCRIBED THE SITUATION IN THE REGION AS "VERY CRITICAL." THE NEUTRALIST GM 884 COMMAND POST WAS BURNED DURING AN ATTACK LAUNCHED BY ENEMY FORCES ON 11 DECEMBER IN WHICH LAO NGAM (15-28H 106-10E, XC 2610) RE- PORTEDLY FELL BUT WAS RECAPTURED BY RLA AND HEUTRALIST FORCES ON THE FOLLOWING DAY. IT HAD BEEN REPORTED SEVERAL DAYS EARLIER THAT A LARGE FORCE OF "CHINESE" TROOPS WOULD ARRIVE APPROXIMATELY 17 KM NORTH OF LAD NGAM OH AN UNSPECIFIED DATE. MOREOVER, ACCORDING TO AN RLA REPORT ON 13 DECEMBER, A CONVOY OF 128 TRUCKS (CARGO UNKNOWN) HAS ARRIVED AT XC 9415 (15-30N 106-48E), EAST OF

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TOP SECRET UMBRA